



Open Space Steering Committee

December 13, 2021

Zoom Ground Rules

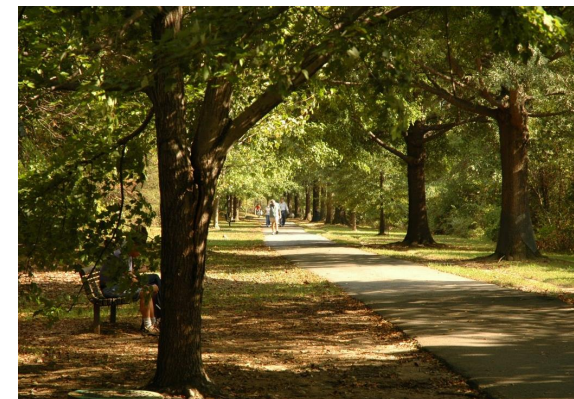


Agenda

1. Call to Order: Kurt Moser/Denise Tenant, Chair
2. Committee Task Updates
 - a. Task 2 overview and timeline – Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner III, RPCA and Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, RPCA
 - b. Task 1, Item 2: Update on POS Zone text amendment - Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner III, RPCA and Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, RPCA
 - c. Small Area Planning and Open Space – Jeff Farner, Deputy Director, P&Z
3. Public Comment
4. Next meeting: January 18, 2022, 7 p.m. via Zoom
5. Adjourn

Task 2:
Evaluate and recommend
methods of pursuing new
publicly accessible open
space.

1. Develop criteria for considering opportunities for open space acquisition through the Open Space Fund (such as connectivity, walkability to neighborhood needs, access to water, etc.).
2. Develop minimum publicly accessible open space criteria for small area plans based on current and future demographic needs and neighborhood characteristics.
3. Evaluate the Open Space Ratio and/or other targets based on national standards and benchmarks for localities with similar densities.



1. Develop criteria for considering opportunities for open space acquisition through the Open Space Fund (such as connectivity, walkability to neighborhood needs, access to water, etc.).
 - Created maps to measure access to open space and identify gaps within the system
 - Researching criteria for opportunities for open space acquisition
2. Develop minimum publicly accessible open space criteria for small area plans based on current and future demographic needs and neighborhood characteristics.
 - Working to create maps that analyze Alexandria's open space using multiple socioeconomic and demographic measures
3. Evaluate the Open Space Ratio and/or other targets based on national standards and benchmarks for localities with similar densities.
 - Evaluating City's open space ratio based on national standards and benchmarks for localities with similar densities
 - Researching open space metrics that address equity in open space (including quality over quantity)

Small Area Planning and Open Space

POS Zone Text Amendment Timeline

- Introduce process to Open Space Steering Committee
- Present to Park and Recreation Commission
- Public engagement (present to various committees and commission, present to the federation of civic associations, survey on website, posters in parks, hold public meeting)
 - Federation of Civic associations, Waterfront Commission, Beatification Commission, etc.
 - Approximately four months
- Update the Open Space Steering Committee on public engagement process and any changes
- Present findings to Park and Recreation Commission
- File Preliminary application for TBD Planning Commission and City Council
- File Application for TBD Planning Commission and City Council (3–4-month lead time)
- Prepare staff reports/presentation
- Public notice period
- Park & Recreation Commission & other Commissions Final presentation for endorsement
- Presentation to Planning Commission
- Presentation to City Council

Public Comment

- Please use the "Raise Your Hand" feature of "*9" to inform staff you would like to comment.
- Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Next meeting

- January 18, 2022 - 7 p.m. via Zoom
 - Open Space budget and acquisition of open space

Information & Questions

- Information
 - [Open Space Planning](#)
- Questions
 - Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner II
ana.Vicinanzo@alexandriava.gov
 - Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner
judy.lo@alexandriava.gov
 - Jack Browand, Division Chief
jack.browand@alexandriava.gov

Addendum

POS/Public open space and community recreation zone

- Purpose and short title.
 - The POS zone is intended to preserve and enhance Alexandria's publicly owned open space and recreational areas and to protect the natural and developed amenities they possess by allowing only that development which respects and is consistent with those amenities. This zone is intended to apply to all publicly owned open spaces, parks, recreation facilities and similar areas.
- Permitted uses. The following are permitted uses in the POS zone:
 - Recreational areas consisting of natural and unimproved geographic features such as woodland, meadowland or wetland areas, wildlife sanctuaries or preserves, water courses, streams, lakes and ponds, and similar geographic features;
 - Improved outdoor recreational facilities intended for passive and/or non-congregate recreational activities only, such as hiking and bicycle trails, squares, greens and commons, sitting areas, picnic areas and fishing sites, and like facilities, subject to approval of a site plan.

Accessory and Temporary Uses

- Accessory uses and structures.
 - Accessory uses and structures, including outdoor storage and park guard facilities, are permitted in the POS zone, subject to approval of a site plan.
- Temporary uses and structures.
 - Temporary uses and structures compatible with the purposes of the POS zone, such as fairs, festivals and competitions, and structure associated therewith, such as tents and band shells, may be permitted by resolution of city council, subject to such limitations, terms and conditions as therein specified; provided, that city council may by resolution delegate such approval authority, in whole or in part, to the city manager, under appropriate standards and guidelines, and subject to appeal to city council.

Special Uses

The following uses may be allowed in the POS zone pursuant to a special use permit:

- Public park and community recreation buildings, including enclosed and semi-enclosed shelters and pavilions, providing functions and facilities such as gymnasiums, meeting rooms, game rooms, arts and crafts centers, and dining and dancing facilities;
- Congregate recreational facilities;
- Commercial facilities customarily incidental and subordinate to the operation of public recreational uses, such as refreshment stands and small shops providing sporting goods and related services.
- Cultural facilities such as botanical gardens, arboretums, nature centers, conservatories, historic sites, archeological sites, monuments and memorials;
- Plant, tree and flower nurseries;
- Public utility rights-of-way, man-made lakes, ponds and water courses, and similar public works compatible with the purposes of the POS zone;
- Facilities for the lighting of any area in the POS zone for nighttime use;
- Outdoor market;
- Temporary public school classroom trailers in conjunction with adjacent public schools. This subsection shall expire on June 30, 2006. Any trailers permitted under the authority of this subsection shall be removed by that date.
- Public recycling center, provided that the director finds that the use does not interfere with an established active or passive recreation area; that no trees will be removed to accommodate the use, unless such removal is approved by the director of parks, recreation and cultural activities, and that uses adjacent to the recycling site are compatible with recycling activities.
- Indoor and outdoor roller skating and ice skating rinks, miniature golf courses.

















What resources do you need from us?



Next Steps

- Next Meeting:
 - Meetings will be scheduled Monthly
 - Preferred day of the week and time of day
- **October Homework**
 - **Review notes on the definitions of open space that staff has compiled.**
 - **Be ready to discuss the definition of publicly accessible open space!**

Public Comment

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